



SHOWJUMPING

# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH YURI MANSUR

By Farah Rezeika

YURI, A BRAZILIAN SHOW JUMPER, DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR HORSES WHILE SPENDING VACATIONS ON A FARM. DESPITE EQUESTRIAN SPORTS NOT BEING CULTURAL IN BRAZIL, YURI DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM TALENTED RIDERS. WHEN SELECTING HORSES, HE VALUES A WINNING SPIRIT AND GOOD UNDERSTANDING. AACHEN HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART, AND HE ENJOYS JUMPING IN BASEL. CATCH A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF YURI.





**Yuri, we all know you're an incredible show jumper, but what sparked your passion for horses in the first place? Did you grow up around them, or was there a particular moment when you fell in love with these beautiful animals?**

First of all, thank you for this interview. It's always good to show all sides of our sport and how we deal with our animals.

I started very late in the sport; I started when I was 14 years old. It all happened on a farm, where I used to spend my vacations, and from there, I never stopped with horses.

**You've had the opportunity to ride top-quality horses throughout your career. What traits do you look for in a horse that makes you confident they will be successful in the show jumping arena?**

For sure, when I search for a horse for myself, the first thing I try to feel is if the horse has a winning spirit and a good mind. If he rides in your favor, if he is smart and understands my language, we can teach the horse a technique and improve his muscles and everything related to that. But if he is not in your favor, the game is over.

**Every rider has a favorite venue or competition that holds a special place in their heart. Which show jumping event is particularly memorable for you, and why?**

It is hard to choose some shows because our sport has evolved a lot and all shows take care of so many details about your horse and the riders that it is becoming harder and harder to choose only one show.

But for sure, I need to say Aachen, since this is an event every rider wants to attend for its tradition and its recognition around the world.

And I need to say that I really like jumping in Basel. The atmosphere there makes me feel very good!

**You've achieved so much already in your career - can you tell us about some of your proudest accomplishments and what they mean to you?**

I always like to think that any win is significant. Not only for me, but for my team, starting from my blacksmith, to my vet, riders, and especially my grooms. They all win. For all my history and journey, I have to say winning Aachen with Miss Blue was incredible, as was being

placed 4<sup>th</sup> with Vitiki in the World Cup finals.

Yuri, thank you for sharing your insights so far. Now, let's switch gears and have some fun with a quick-fire round of short questions!

**What's your favorite equestrian discipline other than show jumping?**

Driving

**What's your go-to comfort food after a long day of training?**

Chocolate milkshake

**What's one item you can't live without at horse shows?**

Black straight Pelham

**What's the most memorable fan encounter you've had?**

In Basel, there is a little girl; she always comes to the tribune to say hi to me. Every year she is there. There is also one German lady; she carries photos of all riders and gives it to them every time.

**What's your favorite non-horse-related hobby?**

Formula 1

**If you could travel to any destination for a vacation, where would you go?**

Florianopolis - Brazil

**Have you thought of visiting Egypt before, or any country in the Middle East?**

Yes, I was already in Qatar with my family and Riyadh. Incredible places.

**What's the craziest thing you've ever done outside of show jumping?**

Everything we do in between shows is crazy. We travel to the four corners of the globe every single week. We compete and perform, have a business, and have a family to take care of as well. It's a crazy job, but it pays off every single day. 🐾